



2020 Report to Congress

**ON THE REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCILS AND SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL
COMMITTEE MEMBERS' FINANCIAL INTEREST
DISCLOSURE AND RECUSAL REQUIREMENTS**

AND

**ON THE REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCILS MEMBERSHIP APPORTIONMENT**

*Developed pursuant to Section 302(b)(2)(B) and Section 302(j)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
Conservation and Management Act.*

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A. Executive Summary

This report combines the reporting requirements of Section 302(b)(2)(B) and Section 302(j)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) into a comprehensive source on the activities of the Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and their Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs). This report: (1) assesses the efforts and actions taken by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) and the Councils in 2020 to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of the MSA and (2) assesses the annual apportionment of Council membership.

Section 302(j)(9) of the MSA requires the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress on actions taken by the Secretary and the Councils to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of the MSA, including identifying any conflict-of-interest problems with respect to the Councils and SSCs, and recommendations for addressing any such problems. As described in Part I, Section C, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) published a final rule in the *Federal Register* (85 FR 56177) on September 11, 2020, with changes to the regulations to better address disclosure of financial interests by, and voting recusal of, Council members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The final rule provides guidance to strengthen and clarify the process and procedures by which recusal determinations for Council members are made.

Section 302(b)(2)(B) requires the Secretary to report annually to Congress on actions taken to achieve, to the extent practicable, a “fair and balanced apportionment, on a rotating or other basis, of the active participants (or their representatives) in the commercial and recreational fisheries under the jurisdiction of [each Regional Fishery Management] Council.”

The MSA established eight Councils: New England (NEFMC), Mid-Atlantic (MAFMC), South Atlantic (SAFMC), Gulf of Mexico (GMFMC), Caribbean (CFMC), Pacific (PFMC), North Pacific (NPFMC), and Western Pacific (WPFMC). Councils prepare and submit fishery management plans (FMPs) to the Secretary for fisheries under Council authority that require conservation and management, and any amendments necessary to manage the fisheries consistent with the MSA and other applicable law.

The voting members of each Council include the principal state official (or the official’s designee) with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise in each constituent state, who is designated by the governor; the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries for the geographic area concerned (or the Regional Administrator’s designee); and members required to be appointed by the Secretary in accordance with Sections 302(b)(2) and (b)(5) of the MSA. Non-voting members include representation from the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of State, and the three interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions.

Each Council is required to establish and appoint members to an SSC to provide the Councils ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions. This includes recommendations for acceptable biological catch, preventing overfishing, maximum sustainable yield, and achieving rebuilding targets; and reports on stock status and health, bycatch, habitat status, social and economic impacts of management measures, and sustainability of fishing practices. Members of the SSCs are federal and state employees, academics, or independent experts with scientific or technical credentials and experience. These SSC members assist the Councils in the evaluation of biological and other scientific information used by the Council for fishery management.

PART I: DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST AND RECUSAL REQUIREMENTS

B. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND RECUSALS

Council nominees, Council members, and members of SSCs must file a Statement of Financial Interests to fulfill the requirements of the MSA. This financial information must be disclosed on the NOAA Form 88-195, Statement of Financial Interests. It is unlawful for a Council member to knowingly and willfully fail to disclose, or to falsely disclose, any financial interest as required by the MSA, or to knowingly vote on a Council decision in violation of the MSA. *See* 50 CFR 600.325(i).

Section 302(j)(2) of the MSA requires “affected individuals”¹ (defined in Section 302(j)(1) of the MSA) to disclose any financial interest held by the individual, the spouse, minor child, or partner of that individual; and any organization (other than the Council) in which that individual is serving as an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee in any harvesting, processing, lobbying, advocacy, or marketing activity that is being, or will be, undertaken within any fishery over which a Council has jurisdiction, or with respect to an individual or organization with a financial interest in such activity. “Financial interests” include stock, equity, or other ownership interests, or employment with any entity that engages in or that provides services to someone engaged in any harvesting, processing, lobbying, advocacy, or marketing activity. *See* 50 CFR 600.235(a) (defining financial interest).

An individual who is nominated by the governor of a state for appointment as a voting member of a Council—and before appointment by the Secretary—must file a Statement of Financial Interests form with the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries by April 15 or, if nominated after March 15, one month after nomination by the governor. An affected individual who is a voting member of a Council, appointed by the Secretary in accordance with Section 302(b)(2) or (b)(5) who is not subject to disclosure and recusal requirements under the laws of an Indian tribal government, must file a Statement of Financial Interests, with the executive director of the Council, within 45 days of taking office and must file an update, with the executive director of the Council, within 30 days of the time any such financial interest is acquired or substantially changed and by February 1 of each year.

Affected individuals must disclose any financial interests on NOAA Form 88-195, Statement of Financial Interests. This form is currently available at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/partners/financial-disclosure-statements>.

Guidance on reporting and filing procedures for complying with financial disclosure requirements can be found on that same webpage and at 50 CFR 600.235. The executive director of the Council provides copies of all Statements of Financial Interests to the NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator, the regional attorney who advises the Council, and the NOAA Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries. Statements of Financial Interests are posted on the Council website, made available for public inspection at the Council offices during reasonable hours, and kept on file by each Council and by the NOAA Fisheries Regional Office for use in reviewing

¹ “Affected individual” is also defined in NOAA regulations at 50 CFR 600.235.

determinations of whether a Council decision would have a significant and predictable effect on a financial interest under Section 302(j)(7).

In accordance with Section 302(g)(1) of the MSA, an individual who is appointed to an SSC must file a Statement of Financial Interests with the Regional Administrator. The Regional Administrator shall maintain, on file, the Financial Interest Forms of all SSC members for at least five years after the expiration of that individual's term on the SSC. Councils may also keep a copy on file for their own purposes.

Voting Requirements and Financial Conflicts of Interest

An affected individual required to disclose a financial interest under 302(j)(2) of the MSA shall not vote on a Council decision that would have a "significant and predictable effect" on a financial interest disclosed on his or her Statement of Financial Interests. In accordance with Section 302(j)(7) of the MSA, a Council decision shall be considered to have a significant and predictable effect on a financial interest if there is a close causal link between the decision and an "expected and substantially disproportionate benefit" to the member's financial interest. In accordance with regulations at 50 CFR 600.235(c)(3), an "expected and substantially disproportionate benefit" means "a quantifiable positive or negative impact with regard to a matter likely to affect a fishery or sector of the fishery in which the affected individual has a significant interest", as indicated by:

- (a) a greater than 10 percent interest in the total harvest or the sector of the fishery under consideration by the Council;
- (b) a greater than 10 percent interest in the marketing or processing of the total harvest or the sector of the fishery under consideration by the Council; or
- (c) full or partial ownership of more than 10 percent of the vessels using the same gear type within the fishery, or the sector of the fishery, under consideration by the Council."

Although an affected individual may not vote, he or she may participate in Council deliberations relating to the decision after notifying the Council of the voting recusal and identifying the financial interest that would be affected.

At the request of an affected individual, or at the initiative of an appropriate designated official,² the designated official shall make a determination for the record as to whether a Council decision would have a "significant and predictable effect"³ on a financial interest. Within 10 days,⁴ any Council member may submit a written request to the Secretary to review any determination made. The review of the determination must be completed within 30 days. Any affected individual who does not vote on a Council decision in accordance with Section 302(j)(7) may state for the record how he or she would have voted.

²Designated official is a person with expertise in federal conflict-of-interest requirements who is designated by the Secretary, in consultation with the Council, to attend Council meetings and make determinations under paragraph 302(7)(B) of the MSA. In practice, this has been the NOAA regional attorney who advises the Council.

³ 50 CFR 600.235(f)

⁴ 50 CFR 600.235(g)(1)

Though considered an affected individual, a member of an SSC is not subject to the voting restrictions under the MSA. It is expected that SSC members maintain a high standard of conduct consistent with Department of Commerce ethics rules and Council procedures. Questions regarding conflict of interest requirements for SSC members should be addressed to the regional attorney who advises the Councils.

C. ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND RECUSALS

C.1 Action Taken by the Secretary and the Councils

On September 11, 2020 NOAA Fisheries published a final rule (85 FR 56177) on Regional Fishery Management Council Members' Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals in the *Federal Register* (RIN 0648-BH73) with changes to the regulations to better address disclosure of financial interests by, and voting recusal of, Council members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The final rule addressed public comments received from the proposed rule (83 FR 57705), including comments on whether the changes proposed were sufficient and effective in distinguishing the calculations of direct ownership, indirect ownership, and employment interests. The regulatory changes outlined in the final rule provide guidance in three specific areas: (1) to ensure consistency and transparency in the calculation of a Council member's financial interests; (2) to determine whether a close causal link exists between a Council decision and a benefit to a Council member's financial interest; and (3) to establish regional procedures for preparing and issuing recusal determinations. Per the final rule, the agency will apply the partial attribution principle for direct ownership regardless of an affected individual's percentage ownership in the company. The final rule also clarifies that an expected and substantially disproportionate benefit will be determined to exist if an affected individual has a significant financial interest in the fishery that is likely to be impacted by the Council decision. A close causal link means that "a Council decision would reasonably be expected to directly impact or affect the financial interests of an affected individual." The final rule on Regional Fishery Management Council Members' Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals is available at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/final-rule-clarify-guidance-council-members-financial-disclosures-and-voting-recusals>.

NOAA Fisheries is updating policy and procedural directives to align with the final rule on Regional Fishery Management Council Members' Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals. The purpose of these documents is to strengthen the policy guidance on the review of financial disclosures by appointed members of the Councils. These documents clarify the responsibilities of NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Office of General Counsel (GC), Regional GC Sections, and Councils relating to Council member financial disclosures, which are within those responsibilities established in implementing regulations (see 50 CFR 600.235). The directives establish a vetting process to review the completeness and accuracy of information in nominees' and members' disclosure forms. Separately from the process for submission and review of financial disclosures described above, NOAA Fisheries also provided a brief clarification of the process by which NOAA Fisheries, NOAA GC, and the Councils identify Council members' conflicts of interest within the procedural directive. The current NOAA Fisheries policy directive 01-116 on Fishery Management Council Financial Disclosure and procedural directive 01-116-01 on Procedures for Review of Fishery Management Council Financial Disclosures can be

found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/laws-and-policies/fisheries-management-policy-directives>.

In response to requests for transparency and predictability, the agency, in conjunction with the Councils, will publish and make available to the public Regional Recusal Determination Procedure Handbooks, which will explain the process and procedure typically followed in preparing and issuing recusal determinations in each Region.

NOAA Fisheries continues to use the Statement of Financial Interests form updated in 2018, pending extension with the Office of Management and Budget, and plans to complete updates in 2021. The form can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/partners/financial-disclosure-statements>.

In 2020, each Council executive director requested annual Statement of Financial Interests forms from voting Council members appointed by the Secretary and all SSC members, and forwarded all completed forms to the NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator to meet the requirements of 50 CFR 600.235. NOAA Fisheries continues to ensure that all Statements of Financial Interests completed by voting Council members appointed by the Secretary are posted on Council websites, and that copies are forwarded to appropriate NOAA Fisheries offices and NOAA GC. The Councils also continue to make Statement of Financial Interests forms for voting Council members appointed by the Secretary available for public viewing at Council offices and at Council meetings at reasonable hours. NOAA Fisheries and the Councils also continue to ensure Statements of Financial Interests are completed by SSC members and provided to NOAA Fisheries to be kept on file.

Both NOAA Fisheries and the Councils want to ensure their members are well aware of their responsibilities for financial disclosure and recusal, and the benefits of those disclosures allowing them to participate in Council activities. NOAA GC regularly communicates the existing policies and procedures to all NOAA Fisheries employees, Council members, and Council staff by conducting an annual briefing of financial disclosure requirements. Additionally, these requirements are addressed at the training of all new Council members, as required by the MSA.

C.2 Regional Information on Meeting the Requirements of 302(j)(9)

(1) Documentation of any time a voting Council member recuses himself or herself from a vote, the reason given, and any other relevant circumstances, per 50 CFR 600.235(d).

New England Fishery Management Council member Rick Bellavance recused himself from voting at the January 2020 meeting on the final action of the Commercial eVTR Framework because he may assist the contractor hired to educate fishermen on the eVTR requirements if approved by NOAA Fisheries.

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council member Laurie Nolan voluntarily recused herself from voting at the April 2020 meeting on final action on 2020 golden tilefish specifications and on a request for emergency action for the golden tilefish fishery.

(2) Documentation of any Council member requests for determination for the need for a recusal by that Council member, and the results of that determination, per 50 CFR 600.235(f)(1).

On the request of Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Member Peter Hughes, an employee of Atlantic Capes Fisheries, NOAA General Counsel made a determination that he did not need to recuse himself from voting on final action for Illex Squid Permits Amendment at the July 2020 meeting.

(3) Documentation of any determination by a designated official on the basis of the knowledge of the designated official or of written and signed information received before or during a Council meeting and the results of that determination, per 50 CFR 600.235(f)(2)(i)-(ii).

In preparation for each of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings in 2020, the Alaska Section of NOAA General Counsel prepared determinations for six Council decisions and concluded that none of the Council members appointed by the Secretary were required to be recused from voting.

(4) Documentation that the designated official received reliable and probative information during a Council meeting relevant to a determination concerning recusal, per 50 CFR 600.235(f)(3).

None reported in 2020.

(5) Documentation of any requests for review of a determination and the results of that review per 50 CFR 600.235(g).

None reported in 2020.

(6) Any circumstances where a Council member's NOAA Form 88-195, Statement of Financial Interests, was found to be in error, the circumstances relevant to the error, and its resolution per 50 CFR 600.235(b).

None reported in 2020.

(7) Any instances of Council member resignations or removal due to concerns about disclosure of financial interests or recusal and circumstances relevant to each occurrence, per 50 CFR 600.235(i).

None reported in 2020.

(8) Any similar instances to the above regarding SSC members.

There were six instances of Pacific Fishery Management Council SSC member recusal in 2020. In each case, the SSC member or someone in their chain of supervision contributed to or was a proponent of an analysis or methodology being reviewed. The recusals were not related to financial interest.

There were also a number of instances in which North Pacific Fishery Management Council SSC members voluntarily recused themselves. In each case, the SSC member or someone in their chain of supervision contributed to an analysis, assessment, or methodology being reviewed by the SSC. None of the recusals were related to financial interest.

PART II: MEMBERSHIP APPORTIONMENT

D. FAIR AND BALANCED COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the MSA requires that members of each Council appointed by the Secretary must be individuals who are “knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management, or the commercial or recreational harvest, of the fishery resources of the geographical area concerned.” Pursuant to Section 302(b)(2)(B), the Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall “ensure a fair and balanced apportionment...in the commercial and recreational fisheries under the jurisdiction of the Council.”

The consideration of balance and fairness between commercial and recreational fishing sectors is a required element in the Secretary’s appointment of Council members. Equally important are the stewardship responsibilities of Councils and the appointment of individuals who can work collectively with other members to achieve the conservation standards under the MSA. Successful nominees, therefore, are those who are qualified in accordance with the provisions at 50 CFR 600.215 and who will best contribute to the stewardship of marine fishery resources.⁵ Generally, the most qualified nominees are those who:

- (1) Have achieved a level of leadership in promoting stewardship of the marine fishery resources under the jurisdiction of the Councils to which they would be appointed; and
- (2) Participate in, or represent commercial fishermen participating in, one or more commercial fisheries under the Councils’ jurisdictions (including aquaculture); or
- (3) Participate in, or represent recreational fishermen participating in, one or more recreational fisheries under the Councils’ jurisdictions; or
- (4) Are otherwise experienced and/or knowledgeable in leadership of organizations whose members participate in a fishery or in management and conservation of natural resources, or are representatives of consumers, teachers, journalists, writers, consultants, lawyers, or marine fishery researchers.

Before evaluating each Council with respect to fairness and balance, the Secretary must first have a standard for such judgments. Voting members should be individuals with prescribed qualifications related to commercial or to recreational fishing within the Council’s area of jurisdiction, or individuals with qualifications in one of the “other” related fishing interest categories, who are personally committed to meeting the Council’s trusteeship responsibilities for living marine resources.

⁵ The qualifications for appointment are derived from Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the MSA and are also included in regulations contained at 50 CFR 600.215.

For the purposes of this report, three general fishing interest sectors are discussed: the commercial fishing sector, the recreational fishing sector, and an “other” sector. The “other” sector consists of appointed members with knowledge of and experience in biological, economic, or social sciences; environmental or ecological matters; consumer affairs; and associated fields. Nominees are categorized as participating in one of the three general fishing interest sectors by the nominating state governors. If governors do not specify a sector, determination of a nominee’s primary interest sector is the result of NOAA Fisheries’ interpretation of: (1) supporting background information provided by the nominating governor; (2) background information provided by the nominee, reflecting the nominee’s demonstrated principal participation; and (3) other supplemental information provided.

E. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPORTIONMENT

Council members are appointed from among qualified individuals nominated by the governors of the states in each Council’s jurisdiction and, in the case of tribal representation on the Pacific Fishery Management Council, from among representatives nominated by the appropriate tribal governments. Appointed members serve 3-year terms and can be reappointed to serve three consecutive terms. A major factor in meeting the requirement to balance membership is the role of the governors in nominating qualified individuals who are knowledgeable regarding conservation and management, or the commercial or recreational harvest of fishery resources. The process works best when governors provide the Secretary with a variety of highly qualified nominees who meet the requirements of the MSA.

For governor-nominated seats, the Secretary will select an appointee for an obligatory seat (state-specific) from the list of qualified nominees submitted by the governor of that state. In filling at-large seats (regional), the Secretary will select an appointee from the list of all qualified candidates submitted by regional state governors.

In 2020, the Secretary announced the appointment or reappointment of 22 voting obligatory and at-large Council members. Table 1 shows the current totals in the distribution of Secretary-appointed Council voting members by sector for 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Because of the limited number of Council seats, not all sectors and localities can be represented on each Council. In addition, the Secretary’s appointments are constrained by the nominations submitted by the governors. Within these parameters, the Secretary aims to select appointees who possess the breadth of knowledge and experience to provide balance on each Council, and who pursue their Council roles as stewards and trustees of living marine resources. To the extent practicable, the appointments also seek to rotate membership, thereby distributing participation among all sectors affected by the fisheries-specific actions. The distribution of representation on each Council is also adjusted, where possible, to achieve a balance of interest among sectors or to provide needed experience to address changing priorities.

Where sector or gear components are not represented on a Council, membership on the various Council advisory panels and committees is also crucial to providing those sectors with representation during Council deliberations, as well as with a voice on specific issues of interest.

Women and Minority Representation

NOAA Fisheries greatly values diversity and inclusion in our business practices and our broad organizational culture, which includes the Councils as key management partners. Governors and tribal leaders are encouraged to consider nominees whose backgrounds, perspectives, and skills would contribute to achieving greater diversity in Council membership and best represent the diverse fishing communities the Councils serve. This includes considering qualified women and minority candidates, who are currently under-represented members on the Councils. Thirteen women, appointed by the Secretary, currently serve on the Councils.

F. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES

Table 1 provides a 3-year breakdown of Council members by fishing sector. Table 2 lists the 30 Council members whose terms will expire on August 10, 2021, by obligatory or at-large appointment. Table 3 sorts the 30 Council members whose terms will expire on August 10, 2021, into the three general fishing sector categories.

The MSA prohibits the reappointment of Council members to a fourth consecutive term. Of the 31 members whose terms expire in 2021, nine have served three consecutive terms and thus will be ineligible for reappointment.

TABLE 1: CURRENT APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS SORTED NUMERICALLY BY FISHING SECTOR INTERESTS (2018-2020)

	Year	Commercial	Recreational	“Other”	Total
NEFMC	2018	7	2	3	12
	2019	7	2	3	12
	2020	6	2	4	12
MAFMC	2018	5	4	4	13
	2019	5	5	3	13
	2020	5	4	4	13
SAFMC	2018	3	4	1	8
	2019	3	4	1	8
	2020	4	3	1	8
GMFMC	2018	3	4	4	11
	2019	3	4	4	11
	2020	3	4	4	11
CFMC	2018	3	1	0	4
	2019	2	2	0	4
	2020	2	2	0	4
PFMC	2018	3	4	2	9
	2019	3	4	2	9
	2020	3	5	1	9
NPFMC	2018	6	1	0	7
	2019	6	1	0	7
	2020	6	1	0	7

WPFMC	2018	3	3	2	8
	2019	4	2	2	8
	2020	4	2	2	8
ALL COUNCILS	2018	33	23	16	72
	2019	33	25	14	72
	2020	33	23	16	72

“Other” sector includes those individuals knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management of fisheries resources in the jurisdiction of the Council. The PFMC tribal representative is counted as a member of the “other” sector in this summary table.

**TABLE 2: COUNCIL MEMBER TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2021
GROUPED BY OBLIGATORY OR AT-LARGE APPOINTMENT**

OBLIGATORY MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED		AT-LARGE MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED
<u>New England</u>						
M. Mckenzie/CT (O)*	2012	3		V. Balzano/ME (C)*	2012	3
T. Alexander/ME (C)*	2012	3				
J. Quinn/MA (O)*	2012	3				
E. Reid/RI (C)	2015	2				
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>						
A. Nowalsky/NJ (R)	2015	2		S. Winslow/NC (O)	2015	2
P. Defur/VA (O)	2015	2		A. Dileria/NY (R)*	2012	3
<u>South Atlantic</u>						
A. Sapp/FL (C)	2018	1		A. Woodward/GA (O)	2018	1
K. Christiansen/GA (R)	2018	1		A. Beckwith/NC (R)*	2012	3
<u>Gulf of Mexico</u>						
S. Boggs/AL (R)	2018	1		E. Swindell Jr./LA (C)	2015	2
J. Sanchez/FL (C)*	2012	3		D. Diaz/MS (O)	2015	2
J. Dugas/LA (R)	2018	1				
<u>Caribbean</u>						
C. Farchette/USVI (R)**	2019	1		V. Ramírez/PR (C)	2018	1
<u>Pacific</u>						
R. Dooley/CA (C)	2018	1		L. Zimm/CA (R)	2018	1
C. Svensson/OR (C)	2018	1		P. Anderson/WA (R)	2015	2
J. Oatman/ID (O/tribal)	2015	2				
<u>North Pacific</u>						
J. Jensen/AK (C)	2018	1		There are no at-large seats on the North Pacific Council.		
A. Mezirow/AK (R)	2015	2				
C. Cross/WA (C)*	2012	3				
<u>Western Pacific</u>						
M. Duenas/GU (C)*	2012	3		There are no expiring at-large seats on the Western Pacific Council in 2021.		
E. Watamura/HI (C)	2018	1				
A. Soliai/AS (O)***	2016	2				
21 Obligatory Members				10 At-Large Members		

C = Commercial Sector

R = Recreational Sector

O = Other Sector

*These members have served three consecutive terms; therefore, they are ineligible by law for reappointment to a fourth consecutive term.

**Out-of-cycle appointments – This Council member was first appointed to serve out the term of a former member. According to the MSA an out-of-cycle appointment does not count in the total of consecutive terms served.

***Retired, out-of-cycle, in 2020 during his second term which expires August 10, 2022.

**TABLE 3: COUNCIL MEMBER TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2021,
GROUPED BY GENERAL FISHING SECTOR CATEGORIES**

Council	COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL	OTHER	TOTAL SEATS
<u>New England</u>	T. Alexander/ME E. Reid/RI V. Balzano/ME		M. Mckenzie/CT J. Quinn/MA	5
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>		A. Nowalsky/NJ A. Dileria/NY	P. Defur/VA S. Winslow/NC	4
<u>South Atlantic</u>	A. Sapp/FL	K. Christiansen/GA A. Beckwith/NC	A. Woodward/GA	4
<u>Gulf of Mexico</u>	J. Sanchez/FL E. Swindell, Jr./LA	S. Boggs/AL J. Dugas/LA	D. Diaz/MS	5
<u>Caribbean</u>	V. Ramírez/PR	C. Farchette/USVI		2
<u>Pacific</u>	R. Dooley/CA C. Svensson/OR	L. Zimm/CA P. Anderson/WA	J. Oatman/ID (tribal representative)	5
<u>North Pacific</u>	J. Jensen/AK C. Cross/WA	A. Mezirow/AK		3
<u>Western Pacific</u>	M. Duenas/GU E. Watamura/HI		A. Soliai/AS	3
TOTAL	13	10	8	31

G. SECRETARY'S 2020 APPOINTMENTS AND REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section updates Council appointment rosters, specifies apportionment totals for Council members, discusses fishery management plans (FMPs), current issues and challenges being addressed by each Council, and makes Secretarial recommendations for future nomination and appointment considerations, including balance of representation from commercial (C), recreational (R), and “other” (O) sectors. Secretarial recommendations are included in letters sent to the constituent state governors requesting nominees for outgoing Council members’ obligatory (O) and at-large (A) appointments, consistent with regulations at 50 CFR 600.215. The governors are required to submit their nominees by March 15 of each year.

1. New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

As a result of the 2020 Council appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the NEFMC is six commercial, two recreational, and four “other.” The at-large seats on the NEFMC are held by Maine (two), New Hampshire (one), Massachusetts (two), and Rhode Island (one), and the geographical balance remains unchanged. The 2020 appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Alan Tracy/O
Elizabeth Etrie/C
John Pappalardo/C
Daniel Salerno/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Ernest F. Stockwell/C
Reappointment
Reappointment
Peter T. Kendall/C

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the NEFMC:

2020 NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (12 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Sector
O	MCKENZIE, MATTHEW G.	CT	2021	O
O	ALEXANDER, TERRY A.	ME	2021	C
O	QUINN, JOHN F.	MA	2021	O
O	GODFROY, MARK H.	NH	2022	R
O	REID, ERIC E.	RI	2021	C
A	TRACY, ALAN	ME	2023	O
A	BALZANO, VINCENT M.	ME	2021	C
A	SISSEWINE, MICHAEL	MA	2022	O
A	ETRIE, ELIZABETH M. P.	MA	2023	C
A	PAPPALARDO, JOHN	MA	2023	C
A	SALERNO, DANIEL	NH	2023	C
A	BELLAVANCE, RICHARD J. JR.	RI	2022	R

EXPIRING TERMS

The following members' terms will expire on August 10, 2021:

1. Matthew G. Mckenzie – other sector – obligatory seat (Connecticut)
2. Terry A. Alexander – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Maine)
3. John F. Quinn – other sector – obligatory seat (Massachusetts)
4. Eric E. Reid – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Rhode Island)
5. Vincent M. Balzano – commercial sector – at-large seat (Maine)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the seven members whose terms do not expire in 2021, three are from the commercial sector, two are from the “other” sector, and two are from the recreational sector. Members from the commercial harvesting sector have experience in the groundfish, scallop, herring, spiny dogfish, skate, whiting, and monkfish fisheries. The recreational fishing sector members have experience in the recreational fisheries for groundfish species managed by the Council as well as other marine recreational fisheries in the Northeast. The “other” sector members have experience in marine science research, law, and maritime history.

Of the five seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2021, three are from the commercial sector and two are from the “other” sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from the commercial sector to maintain balance on the Council. Governors are also encouraged to nominate individuals from the “other” sector on the Council, including individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION

The NEFMC is responsible for six FMPs: Northeast Multispecies; Atlantic Sea Scallop; Atlantic Herring; Deep-Sea Red Crab; Northeast Skate Complex; and Atlantic Salmon. In addition, the NEFMC and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council are jointly responsible for two FMPs (Spiny Dogfish and Monkfish). The NEFMC has the lead responsibility for the Monkfish FMP and the MAFMC has the lead responsibility for the Spiny Dogfish FMP.

The stocks within the NEFMC's geographical area that are managed by the Council are primarily associated with commercial fisheries. While species managed by the NEFMC are primarily commercial, the multispecies fishery has an important recreational component (party/charter and private vessels). The Atlantic salmon fishery is considered recreational, although possession of Atlantic salmon is prohibited in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under the Atlantic Salmon FMP, and there is no commercial or recreational fishery for Atlantic salmon in the EEZ. Management of all of the fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch. Fishing gear technology and selectivity are areas of great interest—to allow healthy stocks to be harvested at or near their optimum yields while protecting overfished and rebuilding stocks, particularly in the multispecies fishery. Also of concern are measures protecting marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

2. Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

As a result of the 2020 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the MAFMC is five commercial, four recreational, and four “other.” The at-large seats on the MAFMC are held by New York (two), New Jersey (one), Maryland (one), Virginia (one), and North Carolina (one), and the geographical balance remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Earl Gwin/C
F. Dewey Hemilright/C
Paul Risi/R
Michelle Duval/O
Danny Farnham/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
Reappointment
Stephen Heins/R
Warren G. Elliott/R
Laurie A. Nolan/C

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the MAFMC:

2020 MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (13 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Sector
O	TOWNSEND, PAUL W.	DE	2022	C
O	GWIN, EARL	MD	2023	C
O	HEMILRIGHT, FRANCIS D.	NC	2023	C
O	NOWALSKY, ADAM C.	NJ	2021	R
O	RISI, PAUL	NY	2023	R
O	DUVAL, MICHELLE	PA	2023	O
O	DEFUR, PETER L.	VA	2021	O
A	LENOX, SCOTT	MD	2022	R
A	WINSLOW, SARA E.	NC	2021	O
A	HUGHES, PETER B.	NJ	2022	C
A	FARNHAM, DANNY	NY	2023	C
A	DILERNIA, ANTHONY D.	NY	2021	R
A	WILKE, KATE M.	VA	2022	O

EXPIRING TERMS

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2021:

1. Adam C. Nowalsky – recreational sector – obligatory seat (New Jersey)

2. Peter L. Defur – other sector – obligatory seat (Virginia)
3. Sara E. Winslow – other sector – at-large seat (North Carolina)
4. Anthony D. Dileria – recreational sector – at-large seat (New York)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the nine members whose terms do not expire in 2021, five are from the commercial sector, two are from the recreational sector, and two are from the “other” sector. The commercial sector members’ experiences include harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are private anglers or charter boat owners. The “other” sector members have experience in consulting, state government management and research.

The four seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2021 include two outgoing members from the recreational sector and two from the “other” sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the recreational and “other” sector to maintain balance on the Council, including individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION

The MAFMC is exclusively responsible for five FMPs: Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass; Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog; Tilefish; and Bluefish. In addition, the MAFMC and the NEFMC are jointly responsible for two other FMPs (Spiny Dogfish and Monkfish). The MAFMC has the lead responsibility for the Spiny Dogfish FMP and the NEFMC has the lead responsibility for the Monkfish FMP.

Some of these fisheries are primarily commercial (e.g., surfclam, ocean quahog, tilefish, spiny dogfish, monkfish, squid, Atlantic mackerel, and butterfish), while others have significant recreational components (bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass). Management of all fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch.

3. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

As a result of the 2020 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the SAFMC is four commercial, three recreational, and one “other.” North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida each hold one at-large seat on the SAFMC, and the geographical balance remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

W. Chester Brewer/R

Kerry Marhefka/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment

Joseph D. Whitaker/R

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the SAFMC:

2020 SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Sector
O	SAPP, ART L.	FL	2021	C
O	CHRISTIANSEN, KYLE D.	GA	2021	R
O	GRINER, ROBERT T.	NC	2022	C
O	CONKLIN, CHRISTOPHER C.	SC	2022	C
A	BREWER, WILLIAM C. JR.	FL	2023	R
A	WOODWARD, ARNOLD G.	GA	2021	O
A	BECKWITH, ANNA B.	NC	2021	R
A	MARHEFKA, KERRY	SC	2023	C

EXPIRING TERMS

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2021:

1. Art L. Sapp – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Florida)
2. Kyle D. Christiansen – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Georgia)
3. Arnold G. Woodward – other sector – at-large seat (Georgia)
4. Anna B. Beckwith – recreational sector – at-large seat (North Carolina)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the four members whose terms do not expire in 2021, three are from the commercial sector, and one is from the recreational sector. The commercial members’ experience includes harvesting, while the recreational member has experience in law and international fisheries.

The four seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2021, include one outgoing member from the commercial sector, two from the recreational sector, and one from the “other” sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from any of the three sectors, particularly the recreational and other sectors, to ensure balance on the Council. While nominees selected to help balance the commercial and recreational sectors are important, the governors are also encouraged to nominate nominees from the “other” sector, including individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION

The SAFMC has prepared FMPs and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the South Atlantic EEZ: shrimp (penaeid and rock); coral, coral reef, and live/hard bottom habitats; golden crab; dolphin/wahoo; pelagic *Sargassum* habitat; and the snapper-grouper species complex. The SAFMC and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council have prepared joint FMPs for spiny lobster and coastal migratory pelagic species in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

Most fisheries managed by the SAFMC are targeted by both the commercial and recreational sectors. Consideration needs to be taken to minimize finfish bycatch. The SAFMC recently developed Regulatory Amendment 29, which has been implemented and requires descending devices on vessels to reduce bycatch of finfish species. In addition, the SAFMC developed an amendment that is being implemented to require electronic reporting for federally permitted for-hire fishermen.

4. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

As a result of the 2020 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the GMFMC is three commercial, four recreational, and four “other.” The at-large seats on the GMFMC are held by Florida (two), Alabama (one), Mississippi (one), Louisiana (one), and Texas (one), and the geographical balance remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Robert Shipp/O
Phillip Dyskow/R
Gregory Stunz/O

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
Reappointment
Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the GMFMC:

2020 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (11 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Sector
O	BOGGS, SUSAN E.	AL	2021	R
O	SANCHEZ, JUAN M.	FL	2021	C
O	DUGAS, JONATHAN J.	LA	2021	R
O	BOSARGE, LEANN N.	MS	2022	C
O	WILLIAMSON, TROY	TX	2022	R
A	SHIPP, ROBERT	AL	2023	O
A	DYSKOW, PHILLIP	FL	2023	R
A	FRAZER, THOMAS K.	FL	2022	O
A	SWINDELL, EDWARD W. JR.	LA	2021	C
A	DIAZ, DALE A.	MS	2021	O
A	STUNZ, GREGORY W.	TX	2023	O

EXPIRING TERMS

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2021:

1. Susan E. Boggs – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Alabama)
2. Juan M. Sanchez – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Florida)
3. Jonathan J. Dugas – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Louisiana)
4. Edward W. Swindell, Jr. – commercial sector – at-large seat (Louisiana)
5. Dale A. Diaz – other sector – at-large seat (Mississippi)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the six members whose terms do not expire in 2021, one is from the commercial sector, two are from the recreational sector, and three are from the “other” sector. The commercial member’s experience includes harvesting and seafood marketing in the shrimp fishery, while the recreational members are private anglers. The “other” sector members have experience in marine fisheries research.

Of the five seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2021, two outgoing members are from the commercial sector, two are from the recreational sector, and one is from the “other” sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from any of the three sectors, particularly the commercial sector, including individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management, to ensure balance on the Council.

DISCUSSION

The GMFMC has prepared FMPs and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ: reef fish, shrimp, coral and coral reefs, and red drum. The GMFMC and the SAFMC have prepared joint FMPs for spiny lobster and coastal migratory pelagic species in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Region.

Many fisheries managed by the GMFMC are targeted by both the commercial and recreational sectors; within the recreational sector there are strong private angler and for-hire components. Thus, the GMFMC needs to consider the needs of these fisheries as well as protect stocks from overfishing. In addition, consideration needs to be taken to minimize finfish bycatch and protect threatened and endangered species such as sea turtles. To achieve these ends, the GMFMC has to develop innovative management strategies. Examples of past GMFMC actions include the individual fishing quota program in the reef fish fishery, state management of red snapper private angling, the Southeast For-hire Electronic Reporting program, and the requirement of turtle excluder and bycatch reduction devices in the shrimp fishery.

5. Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

As a result of the 2020 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the CFMC is two commercial, two recreational, and zero “other.” Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands each hold one at-large seat on the CFMC and the geographical balance remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector
Marcos R. Hanke/R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Reappointed

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the CFMC:

2020 CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (4 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Sector
O	FARCHETTE, CARLOS F.*	USVI	2021	R
O	HANKE, MARCOS R.	PR	2023	R
A	RAMÍREZ PEREZ, VANESSA	PR	2021	C
A	BLANCHARD, LOUIS A.	USVI	2022	C

*Edward Schuster retired soon after appointment. Carlos Farchette was appointed to his vacant seat in 2019 in an out-of-cycle appointment and will serve the remainder of Mr. Schuster’s term.

EXPIRING TERM

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2021:

1. Carlos F. Farchette – recreational sector – obligatory seat (US Virgin Islands)
2. Vanessa Ramírez Perez – commercial sector – at-large seat (Puerto Rico)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the two members whose terms do not expire in 2021, one is from the commercial fishing sector and one is from the recreational fishing sector.

Of the two seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2021, one outgoing member is from the commercial sector and one is from the recreational sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from any of the three sectors, including individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management, to ensure balance on the Council.

DISCUSSION

The CFMC has prepared FMPs and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ: queen conch, spiny lobster, reef fish, and corals and reef associated plants and invertebrates. Recently, the Council prepared three new island-based FMPs to replace the existing U.S. Caribbean-wide FMPs mentioned above, and transition the management of Federal fisheries in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ from a U.S. Caribbean-wide approach to an island-based approach. These FMPs have been approved by the Secretary of Commerce and are being implemented through rulemaking. By developing island-based FMPs, NOAA Fisheries and the CFMC expect to better account for the existing differences among the U.S. Caribbean islands with respect to culture, markets, fishing gear used, seafood preferences, and ecological impacts. The Council is also currently developing a draft Fishery Ecosystem Plan that would provide a framework for Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) and would serve as a source document to guide future management actions pursued under each of the island-based FMPs, as needed. Other CFMC priorities include evaluating the performance of seasonally closed areas and species closures currently in place and supporting research focused on the socio-economy of U.S. Caribbean fishers.

6. Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

As a result of the 2020 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is three commercial, five recreational, and one tribal representative. The at-large seats on the PFMC are held by California (two), Oregon (one), and Washington (one), and the geographical balance remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Aldrich Butch Smith/R
Bradley Pettinger/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Richard H. Lincoln/O
Reappointed

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the PFMC:

2020 PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (9 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Sector
O	DOOLEY, ROBERT E.	CA	2021	C
O	HASSEMER, PETER F.	ID	2022	R
O	SVENSSON, CHRISTA M.	OR	2021	C
O	SMITH, ALDRICH BUTCH	WA	2023	R
O	PFMC TRIBAL SEAT: OATMAN, JOSEPH Y.	ID	2021	T
A	ZIMM, LOUIS H.	CA	2021	R
A	GORELNIK, MARC M.	CA	2022	R
A	PETTINGER, BRADLEY	OR	2023	C
A	ANDERSON, PHILIP M.	WA	2021	R

EXPIRING TERMS

The following members' terms will expire on August 10, 2021:

1. Robert E. Dooley – commercial sector – obligatory seat (California)
2. Christa M. Svensson – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Oregon)
3. Joseph Y. Oatman – tribal representative – obligatory seat (Idaho)
4. Louis H. Zimm – recreational sector – at-large seat (California)
5. Philip M. Anderson – recreational sector – at-large seat (Washington)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the four members whose terms do not expire in 2021, one is from the commercial fishing sector, and three are from the recreational fishing sector. The commercial member's experience includes harvesting, particularly the groundfish bottom trawl sector, and knowledge of the seafood industry. The recreational representatives include a member of board of directors for a recreational fishing association, a charter vessel owner, and a private angler.

Of the five seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2021, two outgoing members' seats are from the commercial sector, two are from the recreational sector, and one seat is the tribal representative. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from any of the three sectors, but with particular emphasis on the commercial sector and "other" sectors to ensure balance on the Council. The "other" sector would include individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management. A tribal representative must be appointed in 2021. Representation must be rotated among the tribes from California, Oregon, Washington, or Idaho having federally recognized fishing rights, and consider those who are knowledgeable concerning tribal rights, tribal law, and the fishery resources under the PFMC's jurisdiction.

DISCUSSION

The PFMC has prepared FMPs for: Pacific Coast groundfish, Pacific Coast salmon, coastal pelagic species, and highly migratory species. The PFMC has also adopted a Fishery Ecosystem Plan and an Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix to help integrate ecosystem considerations into its fishery management decisions. The PFMC has responsibility for recommending allocations of Pacific halibut among treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial and recreational fishermen in Area 2A under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act.

7. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

As a result of the 2020 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the NPFMC is six commercial, one recreational, and zero “other.” There are no at-large seats on the NPFMC. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Simon Kinneen/C

Kenneth Down/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment

Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the NPFMC:

2020 NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (7 Members)				
Obligatory	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Sector
O	JENSEN, JOHN E.	AK	2021	C
O	CAMPBELL, CORA	AK	2022	C
O	KIMBALL, NICOLE	AK	2022	C
O	KINNEEN, SIMON	AK	2023	C
O	MEZIROW, ANDREW D.	AK	2021	R
O	CROSS, CRAIG A.	WA	2021	C
O	DOWN, KENNETH	WA	2023	C

EXPIRING TERMS

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2021:

1. John E. Jensen – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Alaska)
2. Andrew D. Mezirow – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Alaska)
3. Craig A. Cross – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Washington)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The four members whose terms do not expire in 2021 are all from the commercial fishing sector. The commercial sector members have experience in processing and harvesting.

The three seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2021, include two outgoing members from the commercial sector and one from the recreational sector. Although commercial fisheries are particularly important in this region, Governors are also encouraged to nominate individuals from the recreational and “other” sectors, including individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem

approaches to management, to ensure balance on the Council. Alaska native tribal entities also have voiced strong support for greater representation on the NPFMC.

DISCUSSION

The NPFMC has six FMPs for: Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska, Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI), Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska, Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab, the Scallop Fishery off Alaska, and Fishery Resources of the Arctic Management Area.

8. Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

As a result of the 2020 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the WPFMC is four commercial, two recreational, and two “other.” Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands each hold one at-large seat on the WPFMC, and the geographical distribution of at-large seats remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

John E. Gourley/O
Frederick M. Rice/R
Roger Dang/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
Reappointment
Michael K. Goto/C

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the WPFMC:

2020 WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Sector
O	DUEÑAS, MICHAEL P.	GU	2021	C
O	SOLIAI, ARCHIE T.*	AS	2022	O
O	GOURLEY, JOHN E.	CNMI	2023	O
O	WATAMURA, EDWIN N.	HI	2021	C
A	GENEREUX, MONIQUE K.	GU	2022	R
A	DANG, ROGER	HI	2023	C
A	RICE, FREDERICK M.	CNMI	2023	R
A	DUNHAM, HOWARD T.	AS	2022	C

*Archie Soliai retired in 2020. His vacant seat will be filled in 2021 with an out-of-cycle appointment that will serve for the remainder of Mr. Soliai’s term until August 10, 2022.

EXPIRING TERMS

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2021:

1. Michael P. Duenas – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Guam)
2. Edwin N. Watamura – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Hawaii)

The following member’s term will be filled in 2021 with an out-of-cycle appointment:

3. Archie T. Soliai – other sector – obligatory seat (American Samoa)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the five appointed members whose terms do not expire in 2021, two are from the commercial sector, two are from the recreational fishing sector, and one is from the “other” sector.

The two seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2021, are both from the commercial sector. A third seat from the “other” sector is available for an out-of-cycle appointment in 2021. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from the commercial and the “other” sectors, including individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management, to ensure balance on the Council.

DISCUSSION

The WPFMC manages domestic fisheries in the U.S. EEZ around islands of the Pacific Islands Region (the U.S. western Pacific), and adjacent high seas, under five fishery ecosystem plans (FEPs): Pelagic, Hawaiian Archipelago, American Samoa Archipelago, Mariana Archipelago, and the Pacific Remote Island Areas.

While commercial fishing for tuna, swordfish, and other pelagic species are the region’s largest fisheries in terms of landings and value, non-pelagic species such as bottomfish and coral reef ecosystem resources are equally important to Pacific Island communities for recreational, subsistence, and cultural purposes. Electronic reporting and monitoring are areas of great interest to increase efficiency in catch reporting. Management of all of the fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch. Also of concern are measures protecting marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

H. APPENDIX – STATISTICAL FISHERIES DATA

This report provides, in this appendix, the following statistical information about the status of fisheries managed under each Council. It also identifies the number of Council members participating in those fisheries. The most recent data were compiled to show the volume of fisheries production and the related effort in each fishery managed under an FMP. This appendix provides statistical data required by Section 302(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Unless otherwise indicated, the data are for the fisheries listed by FMP. Beginning from the leftmost column, the listed data are:

- (1) FMPs developed by each Council.
- (2) Type of fishery managed under each plan, i.e., commercial or recreational, or mixed (see below).
- (3) Species/species groups making up each fishery.
- (4) Weight of each species or species group in a fishery landed in 2019 (or as otherwise indicated) showing both the landings for commercial and recreational fishermen, if recreational information is available.
- (5) Number of fishermen participating in the listed fisheries, if available; otherwise, the number of U.S. vessels either permitted or estimated to be operating in the fishery.
- (6) Gear and processing methods used in each fishery.
- (7) Range and seasonality of the fishery.
- (8) Number of current Council members who are commercial or recreational sector participants in each fishery; or their representatives.¹

LEGEND FOR TYPE FISHERIES

- C - Commercial fishery: 80 percent or more of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.
- c - Mainly commercial fishery: More than 60 percent but less than 80 percent of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.
- x - Mixed fishery: 60 percent or less of the reported landings are by each group of commercial and recreational fishermen.
- r - Mainly recreational fishery: More than 60 percent but less than 80 percent of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.
- R - Recreational fishery: 80 percent or more of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.

¹ Vertical sums in the attached appendices may not match the sums entered for interest sectors in Table 1 on page 6. If one or more Council members actively participated in more than one fishery, the vertical sum will exceed the number entered in the interest sector column. Also, if a Council member participated in a currently closed fishery, they are still listed as a representative of the fishery in the table because of the expertise they bring to the Council regarding the operation of the fishery.

A-i NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEFMC)

A-i NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2019	Vessels (permits) 2019	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2019	
								Comm.	Rec.
Northeast Multi- Species [NAFO landings have been removed]	C	Commercial Atlantic cod Haddock Pollock Hakes Ocean perch (redfish) Yellowtail flounder American plaice Winter flounder Witch flounder Windowpane flounder* Atlantic halibut Ocean pout	870 7,646 2,803 7,163 5,320 189 977 585 800 11 44 0	2,306	trawl, dredge, longline, gillnet, hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted	7	2
	R	Recreational Cod Pollock Winter flounder	NA NA NA	713	hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted, filleted		
Atlantic Sea Scallops	C	Atlantic sea scallops	27,546	773	dredge & trawl	FMP area/year round	hand shucking and freezing	2	0
Atlantic Salmon	R	Atlantic salmon	NA	None	None	None	none	0	0
Deep-sea Red Crab	C	Deep-sea red crab	1,671	1,401	Traps, trawl	FMP area/year round	whole, partially processed at sea	0	0
Atlantic Herring	C	Atlantic herring	12,998	1,862	Mid-water trawl; purse seines; weirs; otter trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/canned shoreside/fresh bait	2	0
Monkfish	C	Monkfish	5,381	2,110	gillnets, trawls, dredges	FMP area/year round	fresh	7	0
Northeast Skate Complex	C	Skates	8,381	2,032	Trawls, gillnets, dredge, longline	FMP area/year round	fresh bait, frozen, partially processed at sea	7	0

Commercial fisheries landings statistics were provided by the Northeast Region and are based on information in the Region's data base as of January 2021. Recreational fisheries landings are not yet available for 2019.

A-ii MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MAFMC)

A-ii MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MAFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2019	Vessels (permits) 2019	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2019	
								Comm.	Rec.
Atlantic Mackerel, Squid & Butterfish	C	Commercial Atlantic mackerel	5,045	1,916	otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	frozen, whole	1	2
	C	Squid, Longfin Squid, <u>Ilex</u> Butterfish	12,405 27,163 3,432	(Combine) 1,820	trawl; traps	FMP area/year round	at-sea & ashore, some mackerel fillets		
	R	Recreational Atlantic mackerel	NA	767		FMP area/year round			
Atlantic Surf Clam & Ocean Quahogs	C	Atlantic surfclams	18,608	647	Dredge	FMP area/year round (ITQ mgmt.)	shucked shoreside	1	0
		Ocean quahogs	11,199	645					
Summer Flounder (fluke)	x	Commercial Recreational	4,111 NA	762 858	hook & line, otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	fillets ashore; fresh & frozen	3	5
Scup	x	Commercial Recreational	6,252 NA	634 767					
Black Sea Bass	x	Commercial Recreational	1,599 NA	680 848					
Tilefish	C	Golden Tilefish	648	(combine) 1,868	longline, hook & line	FMP area/year round	fresh/frozen	3	1
	C	Blueline Tilefish	37						
Atlantic Bluefish	x	Commercial	1,270	2,311	hook & line; otter trawl; gillnet	FMP area/year round	fillets fresh/frozen	3	5
	x	Recreational	NA	863					
Spiny Dogfish	C	Commercial	7,923	2,305	gillnet; trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/frozen	5	1

Commercial fisheries landings statistics were provided by the Greater Atlantic Region and are based on information in the Region's database as of January 2021. Recreational fisheries landings are not yet available for 2019.

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2019	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2019	
								Comm.	Rec.
Golden Crab	C	Golden Crab	130	11	traps	FMP area/ year-round	Fresh		
Snapper/Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic	X	Commercial ² Groupers Wreckfish Snappers Other species Recreational ^{2,5} Groupers Snappers Other Species	329 Confidential 1,452 1,498 108 1,320 1,175	651 2,183 (for-hire)	rod and reel, bandit gear, longline, handline handline, rod and reel, bandit gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area/ prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau grouper and Goliath grouper year-round ² FMP area	at sea, gutted	3	4
Penaeid Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial All Recreational ⁵	15,433 n/a ³	538 (Comm - penaeid) 243 (Comm. - rock ⁶) n/a ³	trawls n/a ³	FMP area/ year-round	shore-side processing		
Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial-Octocoral ⁴ (2019 landings) Recreational ⁵	31,714 (2,791 Fed, 28,923 State) colonies n/a ⁴	11 n/a ⁴	hand harvest	south FL/ year-round	Fresh		
Gulf of Mexico Spiny Lobster [Jointly managed with GMFMC]									
Coastal Migratory Pelagics [Jointly managed with GMFMC]								3	4

¹ Number of vessels with active permits for 2019.

² Commercial and recreational sector for shallow water groupers closed during January-April. Commercial fishery for red porgy closed during January-April. Commercial fishery for greater amberjack closed during April. Fishing prohibited year-round in Oculina HAPC.

³ Not applicable (No recreational fishery in the EEZ).

⁴ Octocoral landings and number of persons harvesting octocoral provided by State of Florida. Federal permits are not required for octocoral harvest.

⁵ Recreational landings include Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and Headboat survey data.

⁶ Permit count is for both the rock shrimp permit and the rock shrimp Carolinas zone permit summed.

Sources: Commercial landings information was obtained from the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) datasets produced by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL, and from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates were obtained from the SEFSC ACL datasets and include MRIP and headboat landings data. NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2019.

A-iv GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (GMFMC)

A-iv GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (GMFMC)	Type	Fishery/Species, Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2019	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants / Representatives in 2019	
								Comm	Rec
Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	R	Commercial - Red Drum	35	n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	EEZ Closed n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶		
		Recreational ^{6,12}	4,385 ⁵	n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	EEZ Closed n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	2	5
Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	X	Commercial Grouper Red Snapper Other snapper Other species ⁷	2,308 798 2,280 1,304	842 (reef fish) 340 (red snapper) ⁸ 615 (grouper-tilefish) ⁹ 1310 (for-hire)	longline, handline, bandit gear, rod and reel, buoy gear, spear, powerhead spear, powerhead, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, cast net	FMP area/ year round ⁹ , FMP area/ year round ^{4,10}	at-sea, gutted; shore-side processing	2	5
		Recreational ¹² Grouper Red Snapper ⁴ Other snappers Other species ⁷	765 3,626 1,642 533						
Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial-All	51,429	1,418	trawl, butterfly net, skimmer, cast net	FMP area/ year round; annual TX closure; seasonal FL closure	tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1	
		Recreational ⁶	n/a ³	n/a ³	trawl	FMP area/ year round			
Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	C	Commercial ¹¹	2,883	210 commercial 229 tailing	trap, pot, dip net, bully net, hoop net, trawl, snare, hand harvest dip net, bully net, pot, trap, snare, hand harvest	Florida/ Aug-Apr	tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1	
		Recreational ^{2,11}	716 ²	n/a ³		FL / 2-day sport-season in July, Aug-Apr			
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	X	Commercial King mackerel Spanish mackerel	2,716 2,192	1,452 2,338	gillnets, longline, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, purse net	Gulf & South Atlantic: Year round, commercial closures when quotas are reached	At-sea, gutted, Shore-side processing	2	5
		Recreational ¹² King mackerel Spanish mackerel	2,136 2,187	n/a ³ n/a ³ (1,321 Gulf for-hire vessels) (2,255 south Atlantic for-hire vessels)	bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, spear				

1 Number of vessels with active permits for 2019.

2 Data from state of Florida.

3 Not Available (no federal permit or reporting requirements, except for-hire vessels).

4 Recreational fishery for red snapper in 2019 had state specific seasons for the private sector and had a June 1 through August 2 season for the federally permitted for-hire vessels.

5 State landings only.

6 Not applicable (fishery closed in federal waters).

7 Includes greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, almaco jack, banded rudderfish, gray triggerfish, tilefishes, and hogfish.

8 Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ) Program shareholders at the end of 2019.

9 Grouper-tilefish IFQ Program shareholders at the end of 2019.

- 10 Bottom fishing prohibited year-round on Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps; the Edges is closed to all fishing January through April. Recreational fishery for red grouper, black grouper, yellowfin grouper, scamp, and yellowmouth grouper is closed February 1 to March 31 beyond the 20-fathom break. Recreational fishery for gag is closed from January 1st to June 30th.
- 11 Data from 2018-2019 fishing season.
- 12 Recreational landings include MRIP, Headboat survey, Louisiana survey (LA), and Texas Parks and Wildlife survey (TPWD) data.

Sources: Commercial landings information was obtained from the ACL datasets produced by the SEFSC, Miami, FL, and from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates were obtained from the SEFSC ACL datasets and include MRIP, headboat, LA, and TPWD landings data. NMFS Southeast Region, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information.

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2018 ¹	Vessel permits ²	Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2019	
							Comm.	Rec.
Spiny Lobster	Commercial	236 (PR) 44 (USVI)	n/a	trap/pot, dip net gillnet, snare	year-round	fresh, landed whole		
	Recreational	n/a ^{3,4}	n/a	dip net, trap, pot	year-round			
Reef Fish (snappers, groupers, other reef species)	Commercial	448 (PR) 115 (USVI)	n/a	longline, hook and line, trap, pot,	area closures ⁵ , seasonal closures for numerous snappers and groupers;	gutted at-sea, shore-side processing	2	2
	Recreational	n/a ^{1,3} (PR) n/a ^{3,4} (USVI)	n/a	dip net, handline, rod and reel, slurp gun, spear	prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau and Goliath groupers			
Coral Reef Resources	Commercial Stony Corals Gorgonians Live Rock Other Invertebrates	0 0 0 0 <1	n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest	year-round	live, fresh		
	Recreational	n/a ^{3,4}	n/a	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest				
Queen Conch	Commercial	179 (PR) 7 (USVI)	n/a	hand harvest (no hooks)	closed year round (no harvest) in EEZ except east of St. Croix (portion of Lang Bank) where it is closed seasonally each year July through September	live, landed whole in shell, shore-side processing		
	Recreational	n/a ^{3,4}	n/a	hand harvest (no hooks)				

² Not applicable (no permits required).

³ Recreational landings are only available for Puerto Rico and are collected by the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). MRIP stopped in 2017 and was not run in Puerto Rico in 2018. Therefore, there are no data on recreational landings in Puerto Rico in 2018.

⁴ Not available. Recreational landings in USVI are not collected. Also, recreational landings surveys do not collect information on lobster and conch.

⁵ Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gill nets, and trammel nets is prohibited year-round at Grammanik Bank and at various mutton snapper and red hind spawning aggregation sites. Fishing for any species is prohibited year-round within Hind Bank Marine Conservation District.

Sources: Puerto Rican and USVI Commercial landings were obtained from the SEFSC, Miami. Puerto Rico commercial landings are from the Accumulated Landings System at the SEFSC, Miami, FL.

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC)

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC) FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP)	Type ¹	Species/Species Group	2019 Landings (salmon in # of fish, others in metric tons)	2019 Permits (Vessels) & Angler Trips	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing
Ocean Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California ²	X	<i>Commercial</i> Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon <i>Recreational</i> Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon	342,778 60,911 824 104,653 131,434 1,1775	CA Troll 1,053 OR Troll 923 WA Troll 155 263,614 Angler Trips	Troll; hook and line,	WA, OR & CA/ variable dates by area	headed & gutted; fillets; fresh & frozen
Pacific Coast Groundfish ³	X	<i>Commercial</i> Pacific whiting Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Other groundfish <i>Recreational</i> Groundfish	260,067 11,815 4,882 4,867 2,565 Estimated 3,285	396 Limited Entry Permits on 257 vessels Open Access: approximately 853 vessels landed groundfish Estimated 907,781 Boat Based Trips targeting groundfish	trawl; hook & line; pots; set nets	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	headed & gutted; fillets; surimi; fresh & frozen
Coastal Pelagic Species ³	C	<i>Commercial</i> Pacific sardine Pacific mackerel Jack mackerel Market squid Northern Anchovy	437 1,826 612 38,352 13,794	Federal Limited Entry south of Point Arena - 65 State Limited Entry north of Point Arena- 44 (26 OR, 16 WA)	purse seine	CA - year round OR and WA - summer	human consumption bait meal and oil
Highly Migratory Species ³	C	<i>Commercial</i> Northern albacore Other tunas Swordfish Sharks	10,418 751 317 69	1,548 Federal Permits	Surface hook-and line Coastal purse seine Harpoon Drift gillnet High Seas longline	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	Fresh, frozen, canned Human consumption

¹ X = Both commercial and recreational, C = Commercial only

² Data extracted from the [Review of 2019 Ocean Salmon Fisheries](#) (February 2020; Pacific Fishery Management Council)

³ Data extracted from the PacFin (commercial) and RecFIN data systems (recreational)

-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)

A-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Tonnage (metric tons) ¹	Fishermen & Crew ²	Gear	Fishing Areas and Seasons	Processing	Participants/Representatives in 2018 ⁴	
								Comm.	Rec.
Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	117,262 11,211 31,841 34,033 12,759 1,254 6,239	1053 Federal Fishing permits 1,124 LLP permits	trawl; pot; hook & line; jig	area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	4	
Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	1,410,897 177,033 206,945 54,215 3,819 57,209 26,160	532 Federal fishing permits 506 LLP permits	trawl; pot; hook & line; jig	area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	4	
Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the BSAI	C	King Crab Red king crab Golden king crab St. Matt.Blue King Crab Tanner Crab <u>C. opilio</u> (snow) <u>C. bairdi</u>	2,264 3,735 1 Closed 20,800 540	459 Quota Share holders for IFQ crab 347 LLP permits	Pot	Deferred to State; generally November and winter months; LLP permits have fishery endorsements for minor crab species.	cooked; refrigerated; frozen	3	
Salmon fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska and adjacent state waters	C	Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Sockeye salmon Chum salmon	606 2,809 122 13 955	895 permits fished	Troll ³	Deferred to State; generally West area is closed; southeast area time area limits.	fresh; gutted & gilled; glazed; frozen; canned; smoked		1
Scallop Fishery off Alaska	C	Weatherwane scallops (no directed fisheries occur for other scallop species listed in the FMP)	102	9 LLP permits	Dredges	Deferred to State; Time and area openings are adjusted inseason	hand shucked and frozen or iced		

In addition to these five FMPs, the NPFMC also is responsible for developing regulations governing Pacific halibut fisheries in and off of Alaska under authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act). These regulations, which are in addition to and not in conflict with regulations adopted by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, primarily allocate halibut fishing privileges among U.S. fishermen. Although the NPFMC develops halibut management regulations according to principles of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, no halibut FMP exists because the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not apply to management of the Pacific halibut fisheries. In 2019, the commercial fishing season for halibut in and off Alaska ran from March 15 through November 14. The total commercial catch of halibut under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) Programs through November 14, 2019 was 7,927 mt, net weight, about 92.5 percent of the available quota. At that date, about 647 mt of Pacific halibut remained. For Pacific halibut, 2,311 persons held IFQ Quota Share as of December 2019.

¹ 2019 salmon catch data are from the State of Alaska. These data represent only the southeast AK hand and power troll fisheries that are governed by the Salmon FMP and managed as one fishery, inside and outside State waters by the State of Alaska. The catch data for the BSAI crab fisheries are from the 2020 Final Crab Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation report for Fishing Year 2019/2020 (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020), NMFS. Alaska scallop fishery catch data for the 2019/2020 season (July 1, 2019 to February 2020) are from the State of Alaska. All other catch data are from the Alaska Region, NMFS, and reflect catch reports through December 31, 2019. NMFS catch data include retained and discarded catch amounts. Miscellaneous groundfish species includes skates, sharks, octopus, and sculpin.

² Data represent persons or vessels permitted to harvest fish, not the number of individuals actually involved in the operation of vessels, catching and processing fish. The number of permits actually used to harvest fish is fewer than that indicated by the data. Participation in all FMP fisheries is governed by some form of limited access system. License Limitation Programs (LLP), initially effective in 2000, apply to all fisheries except crab fisheries brought under a new IFQ system in 2005, salmon (which is governed by the State of Alaska limited entry system), demersal shelf rockfish in the Southeast Gulf of Alaska, IFQ sablefish, and IFQ and CDQ halibut fisheries. In 2005, a new IFQ program replaced the LLP license requirement for most BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries. A total of 495 distinct persons were initially issued one or more types of harvesting quota share for eight crab fisheries (managed as nine fisheries starting July 1, 2007); in the 2019/2020 crab year all IFQ crab was assigned to cooperatives; 117 distinct Hired Masters fished IFQ for 9 active permit holders (counting cooperatives, not members). Some LLP crab licenses were re-issued to authorize fishing not managed under the IFQ system. Of the approximate total 2,199 current LLP permits, most (1,852) authorized fishing for groundfish in the BSAI or GOA or both, and 347 still authorized fishing for BSAI crab species not under crab rationalization management; the remaining 9 were for scallop harvest.

Also, a total of 821 persons held QS to harvest sablefish as of December 2019, with fixed gear in the GOA and BSAI under the IFQ Program. The salmon permit data are from the State of Alaska and represent the number of individual permits fished in 2019.

A-vii NPFMC (continued) from preceding page:

³ Troll gear is the gear authorized to be used in the EEZ under the salmon FMP, however, other gear types such as gill nets and purse seines are authorized in other areas of the State to harvest salmon.

⁴ Columns not completed. In many cases, overlapping interests exist and expressly categorizing the specific degree of Council representation on a specific FMP cannot be conclusively determined.

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2019 ¹	Vessels (permits) ²	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2019	
								Comm.	Rec.
Hawaiian Archipelago (including Midway Atoll)	C/R	Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Management Unit Species (MUS)	113 (C) 153 (R) ³	Est. 1,042 (C and R)	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except: a. Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) upon reaching annual catch limit b. Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) (closed) c. Hancock Seamounts (closed until pelagic armorhead is rebuilt)	fresh fish market	1	0
		Crustacean MUS (Kona crab and deep-water shrimp)	2	1 shrimp (Crustacean Area 2 Permit)	traps hand	FEP Area/year round, except: a. NWHI (closed) b. MHI: (closed 5/1 - 8/31)	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious coral MUS	#	1	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except NWHI where fishery is closed.	shaped / polished		
Marianas Archipelago (CNMI & Guam)	C/R	Bottomfish MUS	7 (CNMI) 17 (Guam)	11 (CNMI) 0 (Guam)	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round	fresh fish market	0	1
		Crustacean MUS (Spiny lobster, slipper lobster, Kona crab, deep-water shrimp)	<1 (CNMI) 0 (Guam)	0 (CNMI) 0 (Guam)	traps hand	FEP Area/year round	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious coral MUS	0	0	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round	shaped/ polished		
American Samoa	C/R	Bottomfish MUS	6	No permits required	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except for area closure within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	fresh fish market	1	0

Pacific Remote Island Areas (Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands, Kingman Reef, and Wake and Palmyra Atolls)	C/R	Bottomfish MUS	0	4	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	fresh fish market	0	0
		Crustacean MUS (Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp)	0	0	traps hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious coral MUS (all species combined)	0	0	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	shaped/polished		
Pelagic	C/R	Commercial						2	1
		- Tunas (albacore, bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack, bluefin)	12,974	187 (longline active)					
		- Swordfish	740						
		- Other billfish	1,910	0 (squid)					
		- Mahimahi	562						
		- Wahoo	750						
		- Squid	0						
		- Other (incl. sharks and other tunas)	1576						
		Estimated Recreational (all species)	4,892 ³	n/a					
					longline troll/handline squid	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures around the Hawaii, Mariana and American Samoa Archipelagos	fresh fish market whole frozen for cannery		

¹ 2019 landings obtained from NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network databases at <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/wpacfin> (accessed on December 11, 2020), and is primarily comprised of domestic commercial landings, but includes non-commercial (recreational and subsistence) landings. 2019 Pelagic FEP landings obtained from the WPFMC Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for Pacific Pelagic Fisheries, 2019 (available at <http://www.wpcouncil.org/annual-reports/>)

² Vessel information obtained from WPFMC 2019 SAFE Reports (available at <http://www.wpcouncil.org/annual-reports/>) using data obtained from NMFS Pacific Islands Region Sustainable Fisheries Permits Program data, except for Hawaii bottomfish and seamount groundfish, which is from the State of Hawaii bottomfish vessel registration.

³ Where noted, recreational (R) fisheries landing information obtained from NMFS Office of Science and Technology at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/stl/recreational/queries/index.html> (accessed on December 12, 2020)

Too few vessels to aggregate and disclose landings information per MSA confidentiality requirements.